March 31 – April 6, 2022 NEWS YOU CAN USE, NEWS YOU CAN TRUST 75¢

# THE EAGLE

A PUBLICATION OF ASSOCIATED NEWSPAPERS OF MICHIGAN

THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE • THE CANTON EAGLE • THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR • THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE • THE ROMULUS ROMAN • THE WAYNE EAGLE • THE WESTLAND EAGLE

No. 13 www.associatednewspapers.net

THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE
Vol. 137, No. 13

Sumpter Township Clerk Esther Hurst repeated her concerns regarding the hiring of Darwin McClary as the new township administrator at the March 22 meeting.

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THE CANTON EAGLE
Vol. 75, No. 13

The Easter Bunny has planned several appearances in Canton Township this year including a Bunny Hop, Bunny Breakfast and an Easter Jamboree.

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THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR
Vol. 75, No. 13

Inkster officials have reminded local motorists that Phase I of construction on Avondale Street is under way in the city.

*See page 6.*

THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
Vol. 22, No. 13

Members of the Northville Public Schools Board of Education have scheduled interviews with four candidates to replace retiring Superintendent of Schools Mary Kay Gallagher.

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THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE
Vol. 22, No. 13

The anticipated $2.83 million in funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) in Plymouth Township will be used following some basic guidelines.

*See page 3.*

THE ROMULUS ROMAN
Vol. 137, No. 13

Romulus police officers and firefighters who skate on The United Enforcers recently won second place at the Copper Cup, a three-day public safety hockey tournament.

*See page 2.*

THE WAYNE EAGLE
Vol. 75, No. 13

Members of the Wayne City Council have unanimously approved a site plan for additions to the Ford Motor Co. Michigan Assembly Plant in the city.

*See page 6.*

THE WESTLAND EAGLE
Vol. 75, No. 13

The Westland Police Department celebrated several new hires and promotions last week during a promotional ceremony at city hall.

*See page 5.*

## Ford Road is topic of state, county public meeting

Local drivers will have a chance to learn more about the plans to rebuild Ford Road between Sheldon Road and Interstate-275 during a special meeting set for 5 until 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 26.

Current plans include the installation of boulevards along the section of roadway to eliminate left turns. The project is a partnership of the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Wayne County and Canton Township. Representatives from all the entities will be on hand at the meeting to provide information along with elected officials, according to a prepared statement from the MDOT office.

> *The collaborative redesign is expected to reduce the high volume of crashes which have occurred in this area.*

The collaborative redesign is expected to reduce the high volume of crashes which have occurred in this area, according to state officials. The plan includes the upgrade of lighting and signals will along with the addition of new signals. Utility work includes drainage improvements for storm water and watermain work. The M-153 (Ford Road)/Haggerty Road intersection will be rebuilt with boulevards in all directions. The north side of the intersection will have a narrower boulevard to provide additional room for large commercial vehicles to turn, according to current project plants.

There will be intelligent transportation system (ITS) work and necessary pavement repairs on M-153 (Ford Road) between I-275 and Lotz Road.

There will scheduled presentations at both 5 and 6 p.m. to provide information about the project and officials will answer questions from the public.

The meeting will take place at the Summit on the park, 46000 Summit Pkwy. in Canton Township.

Public input is being sought to help MDOT recognize and address any concerns that may result from the project. Concerns and comments are being accepted by e-mail by Adam Penzenstadler at MDOT-Metro-TaylorTSC@Michigan.gov.

## Leading the way…

## Attorney General lauds Northville Township Police work

The Northville Township Police Department is leading by example.

Michigan State Attorney General Dana Nessel said she is using the township department as a model, encouraging law enforcement departments across the state to follow the township example in seeking state accreditation as her own department also seeks the prestigious designation.

Nessel visited Northville Township last week to learn more about the accreditation process through the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police (MACP) currently under way. Her office also currently undergoing the accreditation process and she expressed her admiration for the Northville policies and procedures.

"I am going to talk about your work all over the state," she said to department officials near the end of her 90-minute visit.

Accreditation is a proactive commitment to improving the professionalism and overall approach of a law enforcement agency. A department voluntary adopts policies, procedures and standards to follow while policing a community. By using such best-in-industry standards, the outcome is a more consistent approach to policing that leads to fair treatment, a more professional department and fewer lawsuits, according to the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police which accredited Northville Township in 2018 and reaccredited the department in 2021.

Members of the Northville Township administration and public safety department greet State Attorney General Dana Nessel during her visit to the township last week.

Northville Township also received two international accreditations through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) in 2021 for the department and the township 911 communications. The township is one of only two public safety answer points of 136 in the state to achieve this accreditation.

Nessel agreed that having the top police agent in the state and her team going through accreditation is an unprecedented event. That Nessel looked to Northville Township as a model to get this done is flattering, said Todd Mutchler, Northville Township manager and director of public safety.

"It's humbling that she wants to learn from our staff, who worked hard on this accreditation achievement that our board of trustees greatly supported," Mutchler said. "It also shows that Northville Township is a quality community because our police department is committed to following best practices."

Nessel, who was greeted by Township Clerk Roger Lundberg, visited with Mutchler, Police Chief Scott Hilden, Lt. Chris Rowley, Public Safety Manager Lisa Cupp, School Resource Officer Michael Brown and Community Services Ofc. Andrew Domzalski.

See **Police,** page 6

State Attorney General Dana Nessel presents a service award to Northville Township Accreditation Manager Lisa Cupp during a visit last week.

## Marijuana sales generate $225,600 in fees for Wayne

The City of Wayne will receive a total of $225,600 in state regulatory funding for marijuana businesses licensed in the community.

Currently, Wayne has four licensed retail marijuana businesses and will receive $56,400 for each of the facilities as provided in the Michigan Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Act. Cities, villages, townships, and counties will get $56,400 for every licensed retail store and microbusiness in its jurisdiction. This means 62 cities, 15 villages, 33 townships, and 53 counties will receive funds as part of the state regulation.

> *This means 62 cities, 15 villages, 33 townships, and 53 counties will receive funds.*

Ann Arbor with the largest number of marijuana licenses in the state, will receive $1,411,336. Washtenaw County, where Ann Arbor is located, will receive$1,806,510.08.

"The Michigan Department of Treasury will distribute these dollars as soon as practical to eligible local units of government," State Treasurer Rachael Eubanks said. "The doubling of this year's payment amounts will have a larger impact on local government budgets."

Additionally, $49.3 million was sent to the School Aid Fund for K-12 education and another $49.3 million went to the Michigan Transportation Fund, according to state officials.

This money is from the Marijuana Regulation Fund. It was collected from 374 licensees during the 2021 fiscal year. More $111 million was collected from the 10 percent adult-use marijuana tax.

"It's rewarding to see that the agency's balanced regulatory approach is effectively protecting consumers while still allowing Michigan businesses to grow and thrive," said MRA Executive Director Andrew Brisbo.

"The funding provided directly to local governments - and the thousands of jobs created across the state - show that Michigan is leading the way in the cannabis industry."

Northville - Romulus

# Superintendent search includes interviews and 3 public input meetings

Members of the Northville Public Schools Board of Education have scheduled interviews with four candidates to replace retiring Superintendent of Schools Mary Kay Gallagher.

The public interviews will take place beginning at 5 p.m. April 4 at Hillside Middle School. A second round of interviews will take place beginning at 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 5 at the same location. In addition, the board members have scheduled three community forums to hear from the public regarding qualifications for the new superintendent.

> *The board members anticipate making a final selection the week of April 11 with a starting date of July 1, 2022 .*

The community forums are open to staff members, parents, students, community leaders and other citizens. To ensure that all who may wish to be heard have a chance to join this process, ad hoc applications from any resident, taxpayer, and/or student in the Northville School District are being accepted. If there are more applications than seats, selections will be made by a public drawing on April 5 and those selected will be notified on April 6. The community forums will take place at Old Village School on Main Street in Northville from 4:30 until 7:15 Monday, April 11. The commitment will be to attend this time period in full and complete a survey about each candidate. Anyone wishing to apply should complete the application by Friday, April 1.

The candidates chosen for public interviews include:

Maysam Alie-Bazzi, executive director of Staff and Student Services for Dearborn Public Schools. Alie-Bazzi has a bachelors of arts degree in secondary education for University of Michigan-Dearborn; a master of education, reading specialist degree from University of Michigan-Dearborn and a masters of library information science from Wayne State University.

Dr. Mathew Barbini, superintendent of schools for Libertyville District 70 in Libertyville, IL. Barbini has a bachelor of science in special education from Illinois State University, a master of science in educational leadership from Northern Illinois University and an Ed.D in educational leadership from Northern Illinois University.

Aaron Baughman, assistant superintendent of instructional services for Northville Public Schools. Baughman has a bachelor of arts degree in English and elementary education from William Tyndale College, an elementary teach certification from Madonna University and a master of science in educational leadership from Madonna University.

Dr. R.J. Webber, assistant superintendent of academics for Novi Community School District. Webber has a bachelor of arts degree in history and English with a secondary teacher certification from Alma College, a masters degree in public administration from the University of Michigan and an Ed.D. from Michigan State University.

The board members anticipate making a final selection the week of April 11 with a starting date of July 1, 2022 for the new superintendent.

## Slick sticks

Romulus police officers and firefighters who skate on The United Enforcers took second place at the Copper Cup, a three-day public safety hockey tournament in Bay City recently. The hockey tournament is a benefit for Michigan Special Olympics. The 10-man team roster included Romulus Police Cpl, Christopher Kososki; Cpl. Keith Haynes, Cpl. Andrew Carriger, Ofc. Shaun Fox and Sgt. Darryl Nippes along with Firefighter John Blanchard and Firefighter Joel Ryan Albright. The event generated nearly $20,000 for Michigan Special Olympics.

# Community luncheon planned

The annual State of the Community Luncheon hosted by the Northville Chamber of Commerce is planned for 11:45 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. April 13 at the Schoolcraft College VisTaTech Center.

The event will also honor the 2022 Citizen of the Year officials said.

Scheduled speakers include Superintendent of Northville Public Schools Mary Kay Gallagher, Northville Township Supervisor Mark Abbo and City of Northville Mayor Brian Turnbull.

The deadline for registration for the event is April 4. Tickets are priced at $45 each for chamber of commerce members and $50 each for non-members. Registration and networking will begin at 11:30 a.m. and the buffet luncheon and program will begin at 11:45 a.m. organizers said.

The winner of the John Genitti Citizen of the Year Award will be announced. The Northville chamber annually celebrates the dedication and commitment of community members who donate their time, energy, and talent to make Northville a special place to live, work and play. In 2014, the award was designated the 'John Genitti Citizen of the Year Award", in honor of local resident and businessman John Genitti. The Citizen of the Year receives a place of honor in the 2022 Independence Day Parade, the Heritage Festival Parade, and the Holiday Lighted Parade.

To register for the luncheon visit: https://www.northville.org/events/details/state-of-the-community-luncheon-04-13-2022-2336.

# Police

FROM PAGE 1

They reflected on how accreditation impacted training, how behavioral health initiatives improved their ability to serve, how it helped students in Northville Public Schools and how the requirements engaged the community.

Nessel said she was excited to learn that accreditation helped Northville Township Police Department receive a glowing review after a recent surprise visit from Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Association (MIOSHA).

"Our HR (Human Resources) Director Glenn Caldwell received a call from a MIOSHA representative who said he very rarely does not give out at least a single citation, even for something minor, and he could not find a reason to give any citations to the Northville Township Police Department," Mutchler said. "We credit our accreditation process for that achievement."

Nessel honored township accreditation managers Rowley and Cupp with service awards for their "ongoing acts of heroism that were above and beyond the call of duty for taking a leadership role and collaborating with agencies to develop road maps for the challenging" process.

"Northville Township is the first community, the first municipality (MACP Executive Director Robert Stevenson) talks about," Nessel said. "When he says they are a shining example of everything you should be doing in law enforcement, that's a really big deal. You guys should be proud of the work you're doing here."

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF NORTHVILLE**
**ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – PUBLIC HEARING**
**April 20, 2022 – 7:00 PM**

The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) will hold a public hearing at the Northville Township Municipal Office Building, located at 44405 Six Mile Road, Northville MI. The ZBA will consider variance requests to Chapter 170, Zoning Ordinance as follows:

- 44444 Thornapple Ln - Article 3.1.(C) - General Use Provisions
- 46901 W. Main St. - Article 3.2.(I)(2) - Accessory Structures & Uses The public is invited to attend this public hearing and express their comments or ask questions. Plans are available for viewing at the Township between 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday. Written comments will be received by the ZBA at 44405 Six Mile Road, Northville, MI 48168 no later than 12:00 PM on the day of the above meeting.

Paul Slatin, Chair
Zoning Board of Appeals

**Publish: March 31, 2022**

NT0177 - 033122 2.5 x 2.073

**CITY OF ROMULUS**
**PLANNING COMMISSION**
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
April 18, 2022

Notice is hereby given that the City of Romulus will hold a public hearing at **7:00 p.m.** on **Monday, April 18, 2022** for the purpose of considering the following:

1. **PDA-2020-001; Fairways at Gateway Planned Development Area (PDA) Amendment**, to modify the type of residential structures allowed in The Fairways at Gateway Sub No. 3, Lots 220, 221 and 222 (Parcels No. 80-009-001-0220-000, 80-009-001-0221-000, & 80-009-001-0222-000); and Parcel No. 80-009-99-0001-707
   - Subdivision No. 3 (Lots 220, 221, and 222) was approved with 56, 4-plex units in 14 buildings; 53 attached units in 13 buildings of varying sizes is proposed.
   - Phases No. 5 and No. 6 were approved with 102 duplex units; 91 detached single-family residential units are proposed.

2. **TA-2022-001**; Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment for Articles 3 - 6, **Residential and CBD Districts**; Article 7, **Business Districts**; Article 8, **Industrial Districts**; Article 11, Use Standards; and Article 24, **Definitions**.

The public hearing will be held at the Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus MI 48174-1485. A copy of the proposed requests are available in the Planning Department during regular business hours - Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Questions may be addressed to Carol Maise, City Planner, Department of Public Services, 12600 Wayne Road, Romulus, MI 48174-1485 or at 734-955-4530.

Written comments may be submitted and should be addressed to the Planning Department, 12600 Wayne Road, Romulus, MI 48174-1485 or planning@romulusgov.com.

Publish: March 31, 2022

RM0645 - 033122 2.5 x 4.52

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON**
**INVITATION TO BID**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S, Canton, Michigan will accept sealed bids at the Office of the Clerk up to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, April 21, 2022 for the following:

**2022 MAJOR ROADWAYS REHABILITATION - ASPHALT**

Bids may be downloaded on the MITN Purchasing Group website at https://www.bidnetdirect.com/mitn/cantontownship or you may contact Mike Sheppard at: mike.sheppard@canton-mi.org. All bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the bid name, company name, address and telephone number and date and time of bid opening. The Township reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. The Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

**MICHAEL SIEGRIST, CLERK**

Publish 3/31/2022

CN2366 - 032421 2.5 x 2.058

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON**
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S, Canton, Michigan will accept sealed proposals at the Office of the Clerk up to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, April 14, 2022 for the following:

**SOUND AND LIGHTING SUPPORT SERVICES FOR**
**CANTON'S LIBERTY FESTIVAL**

Proposals may be picked up at the Finance and Budget Department, on the MITN Purchasing Group website at https://www.bidnetdirect.com/mitn/cantontownship or you may contact Mike Sheppard at: 734/394-5225. All proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the proposal name, company name, address and telephone number and date and time of proposal opening. The Township reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals. The Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

**MICHAEL SIEGRIST, CLERK**

Publish 3/31/2022

CN2367 - 032421 2.5 x 2.276

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON**
**ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS**

The Charter Township of Canton will provide necessary, reasonable auxiliary aids and services to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon notice to the Charter Township of Canton.

In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), the Charter Township of Canton will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs, or activities.

*Employment:* The Charter Township of Canton does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices and complies with all regulations promulgated by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission under Title II of the ADA.

*Effective Communication:* The Charter Township of Canton will generally, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so they can participate equally in the Charter Township of Canton's programs, services, and activities, including qualified sign language interpreters, documents in Braille, and other ways of making information and communications accessible to people who have speech, hearing, or vision impairments.

*Modifications to Policies and Procedures:* The Charter Township of Canton will make all reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy all of its programs, services, and activities. For example, individuals with service animals are welcomed in the Charter Township of Canton's offices, even where pets are generally prohibited.

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of the Charter Township of Canton should contact the office of Barb Brouillette, Human Resources Supervisor, Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, MI 48188, (734) 394-5260 as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event.

The ADA does not require the Charter Township of Canton to take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs or services, or impose an undue financial or administrative burden.

Complaints that a program, service, or activity of the Charter Township of Canton is not accessible to persons with disabilities should be directed to Barb Brouillette, Human Resources Supervisor, Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, MI 48188, (734) 394-5260.

The Charter Township of Canton will not place a surcharge on a particular individual with a disability or any group of individuals with disabilities to cover the cost of providing auxiliary aids/services or reasonable modifications of policy, such as retrieving items from locations that are open to the public but are not accessible to persons who use wheelchairs.

Publish: 03/31/22

CN2365 - 032421 2.5 x 4.72

CANTON - PLYMOUTH

# Plymouth plans uses of federal rescue funding

The anticipated $2.83 million in funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) in Plymouth Township will be used following some basic guidelines detailed by Supervisor Kurt Heise during a recent public hearing regarding priorities for the funding.

Heise said he was making recommendations for the use of the federal funds based on specific criteria including: projects that benefit the largest number of residents; projects that are supported by an identifiable need, plan, survey or study; projects that promote public recreation, wellness, safety and quality of life; projects that could be matched or leveraged with additional funds and projects that can be justified to the federal government in the event of a future audit.

Heise said he was suggesting six township projects, including: a sidewalk gap replacement program ($700,000 in 2022 and $700,000 in 2023 along with $200,000 in general funds each year); a new ambulance ($275,000 in 2022); walkways and recreational amenities for Golfview Park ($450,000 in 2022 along with $135,000 in Wayne County Park funds); a new Ann Arbor Trail entrance to Hilltop Golf Course ($170,000); a project that would repair and replace a section of driveway into Plymouth Township Park ($450,000) and a second senior transport van ($25,000 plus $25,000 in matching donations).

Heise told the audience at the public hearing that his proposed projects were a starting point and open for discussion.

"Keep in mind that we cannot use ARPA funds to cut taxes, pay off bonds or debts, pay off judgments, or pay pension or OPEB obligations," Heise said. "We also cannot just push these funds into our general fund budget and burn through them over the next four years."

> *You know the world is upside down when parents are coming in saying they don't want sidewalks.*

Two residents of Plymouth Township subdivisions spoke during the March 8 hearing strongly urging using the funding to repair pothole riddled streets in their neighborhoods.

Heise acknowledged the poor condition of the streets but said that the $2.83 million would be "only a drop in the bucket" with the current cost of road repairs and construction. He said that one mile of road repair would cost nearly $1 million at prices today. He added that Wayne County should be repairing the roads and "It's going to tens of millions of dollars to fix our roads."

Another resident said he opposed the sidewalk filling program Heise had suggested as it would encourage the school district to cancel bus service in some areas, forcing children to walk to school. He said he felt that was a safety issue due to the attitude of drivers on the roads.

"Society has changed the past 10 years. Probably one out of two drivers these days are looking at their phone or on social media. I don't feel safe letting my kids walk up to Picnic Basket or even ride their bikes in the neighborhoods," he said.

Trustee Chuck Curmi agreed that times and society have changed. He said that it used to be desirable to have a school in the neighborhood but that is no longer the case. He said the proposed sidewalk fill-in project as an effort to decrease the lines of cars during school pick-up and drop-off times.

"You know the world is upside down when parents are coming in saying they don't want sidewalks," Curmi said.

# Canton Easter celebrations set

The Easter Bunny has planned several appearances in Canton Township this year.

He will make his first visit from 6 until 8 p.m. Thursday, April 7 during The Bunny Hop at the Summit on the Park Banquet Center. The bunny will only be available for photos for the first hour of the event, saving the last hour to shake his cottontail on the dance floor with those in attendance.

> *Pre-registration is required for all of these events and is available online.*

All family members will need a ticket to attend the event, regardless of age. Fees are $8 for Canton residents and $10 for non-residents.

He will return from 9 until 11 a.m. Saturday April 9 for the Easter Bunny Breakfast at the Summit on the Park Banquet Center.

There will be strolling entertainment and photo opportunities with the furry, egg-toting hero. Breakfast will be served from 9 until 10 a.m. featuring favorite breakfast menu items. Details and fees are available at cantonfun.org.

Following the breakfast, the big guy will entertain friends at the Easter Jamboree from 11 a.m. until noon at the Heritage Park Amphitheater. There will be Easter activities and musical entertainment, organizers said.

Treats will be available to purchase on site.

Fees are $5 for Canton residents and $6 for non-resident children.

Pre-registration is required for all of these events and is available online at cantonfun.org/register. For more information, visit www.cantonfun.org or call (734) 394-5460.

## Cocoa with a cop

The Canton Public Library recently hosted Cocoa with a Cop as part of March is Reading Month. Canton Township Police Ofc. Patty Esselink read her favorite book to a group of young admirers during family story time. The audience then enjoyed some interaction with Esselink and some hot cocoa in the library.


Your choice could make all the difference in the world.

- ☑ Get vaccinated
- ☑ Get tested
- ☑ Find a free location in Wayne County

Now there are more free vaccine and testing locations in Wayne County. Your choice makes a difference. Let's get together to protect each other. So we can continue to move forward.

No appointment needed. For more details visit

WayneCounty.com/COVID19

WAYNE COUNTY MICHIGAN — EXECUTIVE — WARREN C. EVANS — SERVING 43 COMMUNITIES

# Sumpter

## Trustees continue to discuss sale of township land

The sale of township-owned property was again the topic of discussion during the meeting of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees March 22.

In the workshop session prior to the board meeting, Supervisor Tim Bowman again suggested that the township employ the services of Braun and Helmer professional auction services to sell several pieces of property. He said the services of the auctioneer included the necessary paperwork, the title work and advertising.

"This is a better way to go about selling township properties," he told the board members.

During the 45 minutes of discussion regarding the property sale, Trustee Matt Oddy said he would be in favor of the auction service "if individuals were allowed time to get a mortgage" which he said could potentially increase the number of bidders on the various properties as cash buyers "have an advantage."

While Trustee Peggy Morgan suggested a "pilot program" with the auctioneers, Bowman explained that the company auctions off from "one to 19 properties, one right after the other. If the sell six of the 19, the other 13 go right back up again," he said.

Morgan said she had some concerns about the new procedure in place which requires bidders to submit a plan for the property when they bid on it. "Is that out the door?" she said. Oddy explained that the new procedure was written allowing board members the option to change the procedure.

Bowman explained that the properties are zoned and if the zoning is residential "you have to build a house on it. Nothing else you can do."

The board members entered into a lengthy discussion of the possible reserve price on the properties being auctioned and debated setting a minimum bid at the recently appraised price of the various sites.

> *You can reject all bids made but if you set a price minimum, they wouldn't take on the job.*

Trustee and interim Deputy Supervisor Tim Rush explained that these properties also presented a liability issue for the township, noting that four-wheelers regularly used one site and that if there were to be an injury, the township could be held liable.

Trustee Don LaPorte said that he wanted to reiterate that he was not in favor of selling any of the properties, but agreed with Oddy that bidders should be allowed time to find financing if necessary.

Rush explained that with several of the sites, the township would not actually receive the funding from the sale as it would go to the state or county. The township, he said, has been maintaining the land for 30 years and would be paid by the state or county for that service from the proceeds of any sale.

While trustees agreed that the land should be sold at "the going rate" or the appraised value, Bowman assured them that the township would never receive that amount.

"The property could be contaminated. I've walked both properties and there is a tree every 2 feet," he said. "It is not that desirable a piece of property."

Township attorney Rob Young reminded the board members that in his discussions with the auction company, the owners clearly stated that there could be no minimum bid required or reserve.

"You can reject all bids made but if you set a price minimum, they wouldn't take on the job. If you're going to try to get the appraised amount, they aren't going to do it," he said.

Rush suggested the board members direct Young to review the auction contract and bring it back for discussion. "We aren't going to get anywhere with this tonight," he said.

The board members took no action on the proposal to utilize the auction service and voted to remove the item from the meeting agenda.

## Administrator hiring procedure prompts board questions

Sumpter Township Clerk Esther Hurst repeated her concerns regarding the hiring of Darwin McClary as the new township administrator during the regular meeting of the board of trustees Feb. 22.

A motion to accept the formal recommendation of the hiring committee drew some criticism from Hurst who questioned the failure to schedule a second interview with the job candidate. She read from the official minutes of the hiring committee meeting stating that a second interview would take place. "I want to know who decided not to have the second interview. The minutes say second there would be a second interview," she said.

Trustee and Interim Deputy Supervisor Tim Rush explained that a second interview "was on the table" but was not scheduled following the vote of the committee members selecting McClary.

Trustee Peggy Morgan agreed with Hurst. "I was under the impression there would be a second interview. I was shocked they (the hiring committee) didn't have them (the candidates) at a second meeting," she said. "Nothing against this gentleman, but I am against having an administrator. The township is not big enough," she said.

Trustee Don La Porte said he, too, expected a second interview. "This is the highest position in the building other than elected officials," he said. He said he expected the second interview to be one during which the township trustees could discuss salary, benefits and expectations with the candidate. "I scratched my head and wondered what he would be getting as benefits. What do we offer these candidates," LaPorte said.

> *It was a very poor decision. Not a great protocol to have anyone vote on someone who could be their boss. We made a mistake.*

Hurst reiterated her concerns about the amount of time McClary has spent at various municipalities during his more than 30 years of experience as a city and village manager. She said her concern was the short amount of time McClary spent at various communities.

Rush said that Public Safety Director Eric Luke had provided the background check information at the meeting of the hiring committee and that he had personally made calls on the candidate's references, finding nothing negative. He said the short-term employments were "political" in nature and as new boards and councils were elected, those officials chose new administrators and managers.

Trustee Matt Oddy said he felt the issue was one of protocol.

"The minutes were approved and I, too, was expecting a second interview. It puts us in a bind with protocol," he said. "We put two employees in a position they should never have been in. I don't think we should have an employee, a contract employee, or any other employee approving or voting yes or no on somebody who they may be subordinate to.

"It was a very poor decision. Not a great protocol to have anyone vote on someone who could be their boss. We made a mistake," Oddy said.

Supervisor Tim Bowman said he supported the choice of the committee and felt the board should move on with directing township attorney Rob Young to prepare the employment contract for McClary.

"We formed a committee and the committee voted. I see no reason to interview twice," Bowman said.

Hurst, however, said that she found "red flags" in the background checks, again referencing McClary's short terms at other communities. "I'm looking for somebody who stays here. McClary has been at many different jobs."

While the motion to direct Young to prepare an employment contract for McClary was being discussed, Oddy suggested that the board members needed to provide direction to the attorney as to provisions of the employment agreement.

Young said that he expected it would be the same contract as he had prepared for the last five management hires as a one-year, at-will agreement severable by either party with specific details regarding vacation time. The variable, Young said, was the salary amount, in this case to be $90,000.

The hiring was approved by four votes with Oddy and Hurst casting no votes and Morgan remaining silent and not voting on the motion.

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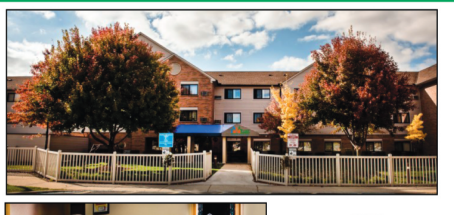
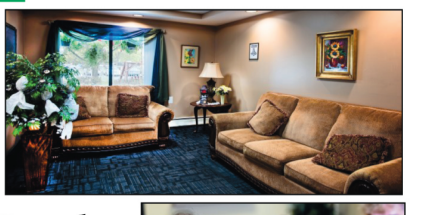

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09 FORD FOCUS SES
1FAHP36NX9W135246
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2CNFLEEY5A6324756
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KNADM4A38G6599868
02 GMC YUKON
1GKEK13Z52R173189
19 NISS NV 2500 S
1N6AF0KY3KN808657
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WESTLAND

# Police welcome new officers, promote 2 veterans

The Westland Police Department celebrated several new hires and promotions last week during a promotional ceremony at city hall.

Department and city officials welcomed four new officers to the ranks and celebrated the promotions of two veteran officers to the rank of sergeant.

Chaim Kozak is now a sergeant with the department. Kozak rgrew up in Westland and enlisted in the Marine Corps following high school. He served four years as an infantrymen and deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq. In Afghanistan, he was awarded letter of achievement for combat actions, Meritorious Unit Citation and the Combat Action Ribbon. He was then deployed to Iraq where he earned the Navy Unit citation, Combat Action Ribbon with a gold star and Purple Heart for combat actions. After his enlistment, he attended Schoolcraft College and earned an associate's degree in criminal justice. Kozak attended the Eastern Kentucky Police Academy. He started his law enforcement career as a deputy for Boyd County Sheriff's Department in eastern Kentucky. In September 2013, Kozak returned home to Westland and joined the city department. Since 2013, Kozak has been a member of the Westland Tactical Response Unit, Honor Guard Team member, CISM Team member, firearms instructor and a field-training officer. Kozak truly excelled while working as a community police officer, officials said. During that time, he developed the "Day for You' event for special needs children.

> *With those programs, we are helping develop future Westland Police Officers.*

Thomas Lawson has also been promoted to the rank of sergeant. He grew up in Taylor and graduated from Taylor Center High School. After high school, he enlisted in the US Army serving 3 years as a tract vehicle mechanic obtaining the rank of Specialist (E-4). He deployed to Panama during the Cuban Refugee Crisis for which he received a Humanitarian Award for Service. He earned an associates degree in criminal justice from Wayne County Community College. He graduated from the Detroit Police Academy in 2001 and served the City of Detroit as an officer for three years. He was hired as a Westland Police Officer in 2004 and has been assigned to patrol. He is a crime scene evidence technician, Glock armorer, Field Training Officer, a member of the perimeter rifle team, and is still a member of the Westland Police Honor Guard Team.

The Westland Police Department also welcomed four new police officers to the force who were officially sworn in during the Promotional Ceremony just before the city council meeting on Monday, March 21.

Officer Jacob Berkowitz is one of the new officers. He is a native of Omaha, Nebraska and is an avid hockey fan and player. He moved to Minnesota at age 16 to play junior hockey. Berkowitz moved to Michigan and enrolled in the Detroit Police Academy. He served in Detroit for seven months before transitioning to the City of Westland.

Westland officials welcomed four new officers and celebrated the promotion of two veterans to the rank of sergeant during the promotional ceremony.

Officer Casey York is a lifelong resident of Westland and a graduate of John Glenn High School. He started his law enforcement career in 2013 with the Detroit Police Department where he has been serving for the past eight years. While working in Detroit, he was assigned to patrol division, special operations, gang intelligence and the special response unit. York is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree from Cleary University and plans to have it completed in May 2022.

Officer Chelsea Gilbert also grew up in Westland and is also a graduate of John Glenn High School. With a psychology degree from Eastern Michigan University, Gilbert started her law enforcement career in 2019 with the Detroit Police Department where she has been serving for the past 2 years. Born in a law enforcement family, her grandfather and her father both served the Detroit Police Department. In addition, her stepbrother, Reed Zielinkski, is also a Westland Police Officer

Officer Nicholas Edney grew up in Garden City and attended Garden City High School. Committing to Concordia University in Ann Arbor on a football scholarship, he received an associates degree in criminal justice. In 2020, he graduated from the Detroit Police Academy and has since served in the Detroit Police Department 8th precinct. While in Detroit, he was trained as a shot spotter, firearms inspector and interdiction of illicit drugs and weapons.

"Throughout the country law enforcement agencies are struggling with police recruitment. Standing here today, I am proud to say that we are still able to attract quality candidates. You can clearly see that after hearing the bios on each of our new hires and our promoted sergeants.

"Another common factor is how so many of our police hires grew up locally. That says a lot for our community. Over the years, we have seen a large number of new police officers come to Westland from other agencies because they grew up here. We have seen that in our police department, our fire department, city council and even the mayor who grew up in Westland and went to John Glenn. This goes to show the importance of programs such as the Explorers and the PSA program. With those programs, we are helping develop future Westland Police Officers," said Chief of Police Jeff Jedrusik.

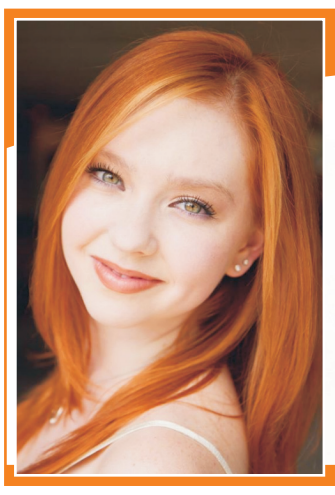
# Parade marchers sought

Registrations are already being accepted for the Westland-Wayne Veterans Memorial Day Parade set for 1 p.m. Sunday, May 29. The parade will travel from John Glenn High School to the William Faust Public Library of Westland this year.

Local clubs and groups are urged to join the parade to celebrate and remember the men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom, along with veterans who have courageously served the country.

A brief tribute ceremony is planned at the Veterans Memorial Garden of Westland, hosted by VFW Post 9885 "Bova" at the end of the parade to pay homage to those fallen men and women who lives were sacrificed.

To participate or for more information visit: https://www.cityofwestland.com/ CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=97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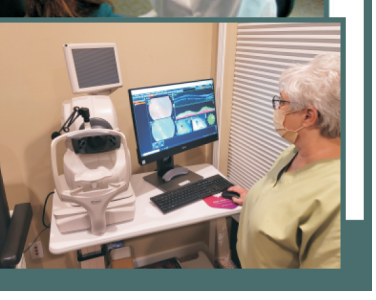
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Inkster - Wayne

# Neighborhood road work causes local detours

Inkster officials have reminded local motorists that Phase I of construction on Avondale Street is under way in the city.

Currently, only east bound local traffic is permitted on Avondale as workers continue the road reconstruction and repair. Avondale is closed from Henry Ruff to Inkster Road. Suggested detour routes include using Inkster Road to bypass Avondale, accessing it from either Henry Ruff or Cherry Hill in the city.

Emergency vehicles will have access to the work zone as necessary, officials said.

Avondale is being reconstructed between Henry Ruff and Eastern while Northwood will be reconstructed between Avondale and Inkster Road. Eastwood Street between Inkster Road and Northwood and Center between Avondale and Northwood will all be reconstructed as part of the project which includes complete road reconstruction, including storm sewer and water main replacement.

Officials explained that the replacement of water mains in the area may cause cloudy or brown water in homes. If this occurs, residents are advised to run water through the faucets until it clears.

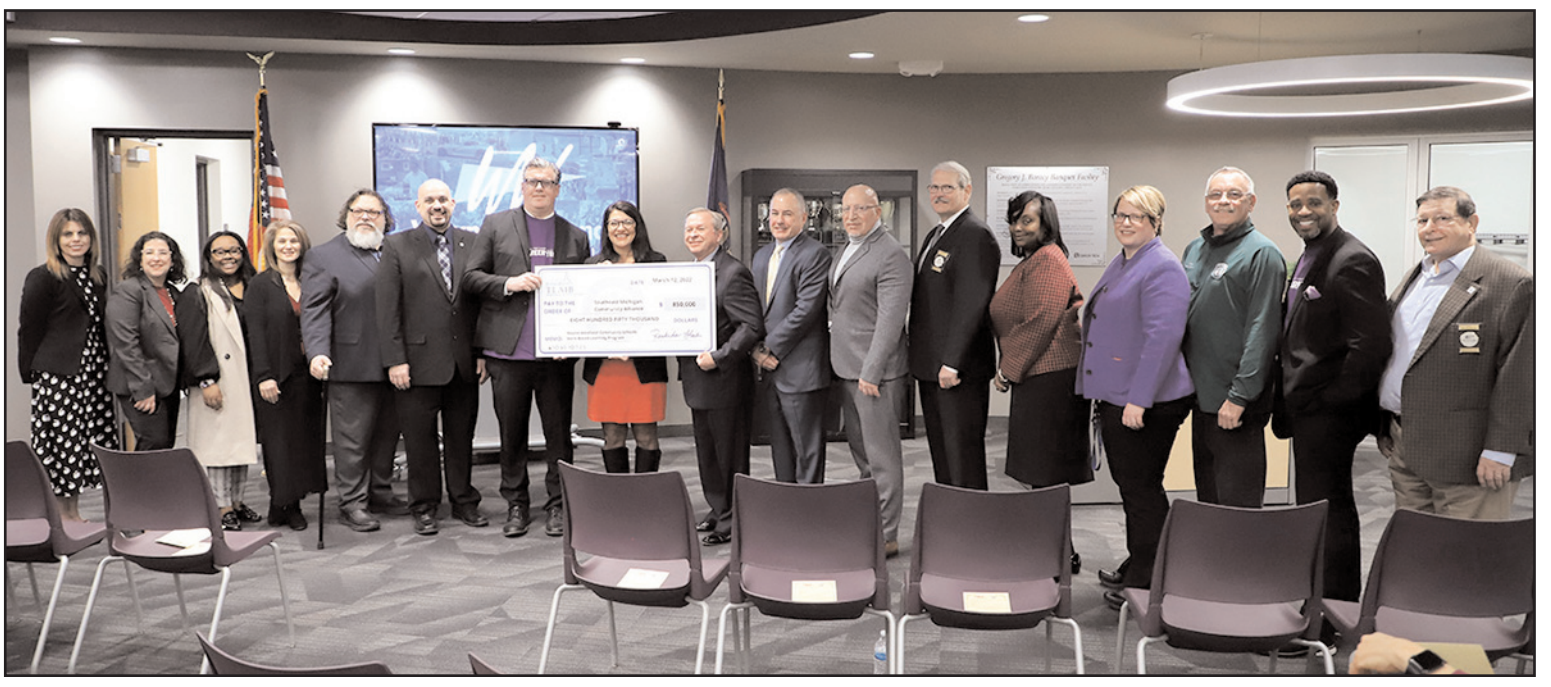
Construction vehicles will not be allowed on the residential side streets during the project which is expected to be complete in November.

Trash collection will remain unchanged in the area and regular mail delivery will continue, officials said.

While there will be absolutely no parking on the street, residents are urged to park in their driveways or on a nearby side street. All residents will have access to their home except during the time concrete is being poured, officials said.

## Path to success

Westland Mayor William R. Wild and Wayne Mayor John Rhaesa joined Superintendent of Wayne-Westland Community Schools John Dignan, many district officials and Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib to celebrate the securing of $850,000 in federal funding received on behalf of SEMCA Michigan Works Wayne American Job Center. The funding will allow Wayne-Westland Community Schools to provide paid work-based internships and job shadowing opportunities for students. The Wayne-Westland Pathways to the Workforce will launch this summer, officials said.



# Wayne council OK's Ford Motor Co. expansion plan

Members of the Wayne City Council have unanimously approved a site plan for additions to the Ford Motor Co. Michigan Assembly Plant in the city.

During a regular meeting of the city council earlier this month, Dave Shoemaker from Ford Motor Co. Land Development presented the site plan for the expansion of two areas of the existing plant to the city council members. He explained that the additions, one to the south of the paint shop and one to the final assembly building, were necessitated by the launch of the new Ford Ranger which require, he said, added components as the vehicles go through the assembly line.

He said the new models of the Ranger and the Bronco, both produced at the Wayne plant, have added complexities and model variants in the wheelbase of the vehicles which necessitated a 12-bay addition to one area of the current building and another seven-bay addition to another section.

He assured the members of the council that the additions would match the current construction of the building including exterior siding and paint. The 5-million square-foot, Michigan Assembly Plant first opened at the 369-acre site on Michigan Avenue in the city in 1957 and currently employs about 3,550 workers, according to the company website.

> *He assured the members of the council that the additions would match the current construction of the building .*

"This is part of normal operations," Shoemaker told the council members. He said he expected construction of the additions to be complete by the end of the year and that a "late second quarter delivery of steel was expected."

Mayor John Rhaesa thanked Shoemaker for appearing at the meeting and said he felt it "is great to see you guys doing well."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